

LITERARY NOTES.

The second volume of Mr. William Winter's dramatic series will be issued in a week or two by Mr. G. J. Coomes. It will contain a biography of Mary Anderson, supplemented by Mr. Winter's critical papers on the actress's various impersonations. It will present several portraits of Miss Anderson, and the name of Mr. De Vinne as printer assures a typographically beautiful book. It is to be entitled "The Stage Life of Mary Anderson." Mr. Winter intends to continue this series, and has already arranged his plans for volumes dealing with Edwin Booth, Miss Neilson, Ellen Terry, and the Walkers.

"Haschisch" is the title of a new novel which will soon be brought out by A. C. McClurg & Co. The plot involves the employment of the drug in the detection of crime.

There is a suggestion in the last number of *The London Spectator* which is to be commended to the modern tribe of small versifiers. "If all poets," says this critical authority, "would give us only their best and weed out their second best, there would be a great deal less of weary wading through poor verse in the world, and great many more delightful little books." Alas! the less important is the versifier the more sacred seems to him every clause of his muse.

The number of prettily printed and utterly twaddling little books of rhyme brought out in these days is something calculated to rouse the most stolid reviewer to frenzy. What literary America particularly needs is a school of critics who will promulgate the doctrine that, while commonplace prose can be patiently, if sadly, endured, commonplace verse is criminal and has no apportioned niche in the economy of nature and life.

The volume on New-York in the "American Commons' series is to be written by the Hon. Ellis H. Roberts. Pennsylvania will be dealt with by Mr. Wayne MacVeagh.

The last half-yearly volume of *The Century* has come from the binders, and a very dignified and handsome production it is. Most of its prose is interesting in subject, admirable in treatment and pertinent to the time; that its verse is poor is probably not the fault of the editors, but of that dreary "Twilight" concerning which Mr. Sedman has told us some eloquent truths.

In "Glimpses of Three Coasts" (Roberts Brothers) are included various sketches of travel and studies of life by the late Helen Jackson ("H. H."). Most, if not all of these were originally published in various magazines. They deal with Western America, with Great Britain, with Norway, Denmark and Germany, and are, great as Mrs. Jackson's readers know, pleasant and picturesque records.

A copy of Dickens's "Stranga Gentleman," one of the rarest of his productions, was recently bought by a small bookseller in England for \$34. By him it was sold for \$15, to a young man in the trade; he in his turn disposed of the book to another person for \$1. This last knew the value of his prize, and, in spite of its being imperfect, resold the volume for \$5 to a well-known firm of book-sellers, who now want somewhere about \$12 for it. A perfect copy is worth \$20. It is quite a small pamphlet and has been reprinted without the frontispiece.

Mr. Hardy has lately changed a part of the plot of his story, "The Mayor of Casterbridge," preparatory to its publication in book form. The *Book-Hunter*, which gives this information, mentions the story as "running as a serial in an English weekly paper." It is apparently unaware that the novel is now being published with its admirable illustrations in *Harper's Weekly*.

[For Reviews of New Books, including Charles Lamb's "Mrs. Leetecester's School"; Fauriel's "Last Days of the Consulat"; "Some Minor Novels," and G. W. Cooke's "Poets and Problems," see 10th page.]

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